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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

TRENDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 15 totaled 353,978, up 1.2 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 2.3 percent above the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 3.2 percent in the East but down 1.1 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, coal loadings were up 7,170 cars (5.9 percent), loadings of metallic ores rose 2,988 cars (16.2 percent), and motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up 1,288 cars (6.1 percent). Grain loadings were down 2,508 cars (7.5 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 15 weeks of 1989 totaled 4,994,126, up 0.6 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 114,088 trailers and/or containers for the week ended April 15, up 3.8 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of 1989 was 1,680,768 trailers and/or containers, up 1.8 percent from 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended April 15 totaled 20.0 billion, 0.5 percent above the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 15 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 288.8 billion ton-miles, up 1.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1989	COMPARISON WITH			
		SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	31,050	33,558	-7.5 %	32,523	-4.5 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,396	2,318	3.4	2,304	4.0
Metallic Ores	21,414	18,426	16.2	19,719	8.6
Coal	128,629	121,459	5.9	125,486	2.5
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	15,388	16,220	-5.1	14,830	3.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,897	10,380	-4.7	9,524	3.9
Grain Mill Products	10,240	10,434	-1.9	10,208	.3
Food & Kindred Products	8,513	9,082	-6.3	8,458	.7
Primary Forest Products	9,630	9,779	-1.5	9,285	3.7
Lumber & Wood Products	6,734	7,070	-14.4	6,369	5.7
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,224	10,918	-6.4	10,118	1.0
Chemicals	29,260	28,180	3.8	29,669	-1.4
Petroleum Products	5,002	4,612	8.5	4,934	1.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,518	11,587	-9.2	10,033	4.8
Coke	6,113	6,279	-2.6	5,329	14.7
Metals & Products	9,956	10,634	-6.4	9,375	6.2
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	22,540	21,252	6.1	21,453	5.1
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,489	9,647	-1.6	9,182	3.3
Forwarder & Shipper Assn.	5	22	-77.3	8	-37.5
All Other Carloads	6,980	7,209	-3.2	7,108	-1.8
Total	353,978	349,868	1.2 %	345,915	2.3 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1989			CUMULATIVE: 15 WEEKS ENDING APRIL 15, 1989		
	1989	1988	CHANGE	1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	353,978	349,868	1.2 %	4,994,126	4,963,550	.6 %
Intermodal Traffic						
Trailers	63,258	67,087	-1.2	975,799	1,004,039	-2.8
Containers	47,830	42,780	11.8	704,969	646,505	9.0
Total	114,088	109,867	3.8	1,680,768	1,650,544	1.8
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	20.0	19.9	.5 %	288.8	285.7	1.1 %